

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Hybrid Monthly Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 22 August, 2023 at 7:02 pm

PRESENT IN CHAMBER:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor A Gowan

Deputy Mayor
Councillor G McCleave

Aldermen J Baird, A G Ewart MBE, O Gawith, M Gregg,
A Grehan, H Legge and S P Porter

Councillors R T Beckett, P Burke, S Burns, R Carlin,
P Catney, D J Craig, K Dickson, N Eaton, A P Ewing,
J Gallen, A Givan, B Higginson, G Hynds, C Kemp,
P Kennedy, J Lavery BEM, S Lowry, C McCready,
A McIntyre, R McLernon, U Mackin, A Martin, T Mitchell,
N Parker and G Thompson

**PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:
IN ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor D Bassett and M McKeever

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive
Director of Communities and Wellbeing
Director of Finance & Corporate Services
Director of Regeneration & Growth
Acting Director of Environmental Services
Member Services Officers (BS & EW)
Technician
IT Officer

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan, welcomed those present to the August meeting of Council.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor reminded the Council that In line with Local Government (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of District Council Meetings) Regulations (NI) 2020, the meeting was being live streamed to enable members of the public to hear and see the proceedings. He pointed out that, unless the item on the agenda was considered under confidential business, the meeting would be broadcast online and members of the public could be captured on the livestream. Data captured on the livestream was processed in the exercise of official authority which covered public functions and powers which were set out in law and to perform a specific task in the public interest.

The Chief Executive outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

Commencement of the Meeting (Cont'd)

The Member Services Officer read out the names of the Elected Members and Officers in attendance at the meeting.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor requested that all mobile phones be put on silent or switched off for the duration of the meeting and pointed out that, in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders, whilst the meeting was being live-streamed, unauthorised recording was not permitted.

Prayers (00:05:00)

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan, advised that his Chaplain, Mr Danny Roberts, was unable to be in attendance at the meeting that evening and that he had provided a video containing his address to the Council which had been recorded from his home town of Liverpool.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor thanked Mr Roberts for taking the time to make his video and for his contribution therein.

At this point The Right Worshipful the Mayor advised of a number of bereavements since the last meeting of Council:

- Michael Finney, IT Manager, on the death of his Father, Desmond (Dem)
- Gerard Deery, Planning Team, on the death of his Mother, Kathleen
- Donal McLaughlin, Environmental Health, Risk & Emergency Planning Service Unit, on the death of his mother, Mary Veronica (Vonnice)
- death of Steven Wilson, Council employee, Council's cleansing unit

In the absence of his Chaplain, The Right Worshipful the Mayor invited Councillor A Martin to open the meeting with a prayer. During his prayer Councillor Martin remembered the families of the above-mentioned bereavements.

1. Business of The Right Worshipful the Mayor

1.1 Mayor's Engagements (00:11:50)

The Council noted a number of engagements attended by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan, and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor G McCleave, since the previous meeting of Council.

2. Apologies (00:12:19)

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Aldermen M Guy, S Skillen and J Tinsley, and Councillor Hon N Trimble, and the Director of Organisation Development and Innovation.

3. Declarations of Interest (00:13:02)

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Council Minutes

4.1 Meeting of Council held on 27 June 2023 (00:13:40)

Proposed by Alderman J Baird

Seconded by Alderman M Gregg

5. Matters Arising (00:14:20)

There were no matters arising out of the above minutes.

6. Deputations (00:14:33)

There were no deputations.

7. Business Required by Statute

(i) Signing of Legal Documents (00:14:38)

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Alderman S P Porter, and agreed that the following legal documents be signed at the meeting:

- Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and Workforce Training Services, 465 Antrim Road, Belfast BT15 3BP – F23/24-004 - Award Letter to Workforce Training Services as the Supplier to deliver the HGV Transport Academy: Phase 2
- Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and CA Services (NI) Ltd, 126 Old Ballynahinch Road, Lisburn BT27 6TH – Contract for Planned Preventative Maintenance Inspections for Thermostatic Mixing Valves (TMV's)
- Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and D&J Drain Services Ltd, 16 Millbay Road, Islandmagee, Larne BT40 3RG – Contract for Planned Preventative Maintenance Inspections of Oil Interceptor & Effluent Management
- Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and B.I. Electrical Services (NI) trading as Greenview, 11 Michelin Road, Mallusk, Newtownabbey, Antrim BT36 4PT – Contract for Planned Preventative Maintenance Inspections for Emergency Lighting Systems and Select List
- Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and All-Duct Cleaning Services, 81 Ballymacarn Road, Ballynahinch BT24 8JS – Contract for Planned Preventative Maintenance Inspections for Cooker Hood Cleaning
- Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and Spektrix Limited, Third Floor, 3 Doreset Rise, London EC4Y 8EN – F22/23-019 - Contract for Provision of an Integrated Box Office Ticketing System

(i) Signing of Legal Documents (Cont'd)

- Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and Community Advice Lisburn & Castlereagh, 50 Railway Street, Lisburn BT28 1XP – Contract for Delivery of Generalist Advice Services

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees

Special Governance & Audit Committee

29 June 2023

(00:15:12)

Proposed by Councillor R McLernon

Seconded by Councillor A Martin

Planning Committee

19 June, 2023

(00:15:48)

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 19 June, 2023 had been circulated for noting only as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 17 July, 2023. It was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Councillor A Martin, and agreed that their contents be noted.

Planning Committee

17 July, 2023

(00:16:04)

The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings of 17 July, 2023 had been circulated for noting only as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 7 August, 2023. It was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Councillor U Mackin, and agreed that their contents be noted.

9. Report from Chief Executive (00:17:08)

9.1 Labour Market Partnership Funding Contract 2023-2024 (00:17:18)

The Council considered a report by the Chief Executive outlining the background and key issues in connection with the Labour Market Partnership Funding Contract for 2023/2024.

It was proposed by Alderman A Grehan, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed that in order to ensure the programmes under the Labour Market Partnership initiative were delivered within the stipulated timeframes, delegated authority be granted to the Regeneration & Growth Committee at its meeting on 7 September 2023 to consider and agree a report on the LMP's Offer of Funding.

9.2 Amendment to Standing Orders No. 21.1 re Call-In Process (00:18:18)

The Council considered a report by the Chief Executive in connection with the requirement to amend Standing Orders relating to the Call-In process which had arisen following a high court ruling against Derry City & Strabane District

9.2 Amendment to Standing Orders No. 21.1 re Call-In Process (Cont'd)

Council in a judicial review concerning a Planning Committee decision known as the Hartlands Ruling. It was noted that the Judge had made a number of findings which consequentially impacted the legality of Standing Order 21.1 in relation to the Call-In process, in particular in relation to Planning Committee decisions being subject to the call-in process.

It was also noted that legal advice had recommended that the Council should progress with the required amendments to Standing Order 21.1 to comply with the Hartlands ruling until such time as the legislation had been amended.

In this regard, the suspension of Standing Order 27.2 was required so as to allow consideration of the above-mentioned amendment to the said Standing Order.

It was proposed by Alderman S P Porter, seconded by Alderman M Gregg, and agreed that Standing Order 27.2 be suspended for consideration of this item of business.

Standing Order 27.2 was suspended at this juncture.

It was proposed by Alderman S P Porter, seconded by Alderman M Gregg, and agreed that Standing Order 21.1 "Decisions subject to call-in" be amended to include decisions taken by the Planning Committee, as set out in the appended document.

10. Reports from Members on Boards (00:19:48)

There were no reports from Members on Boards.

11. Reports on Decisions Subject to the Reconsideration Procedure (00:19:54)

There were no reports on decisions subject to the reconsideration procedure.

12. Notice of Motion

12.1 Motion in Support of the LGBTQ+ Community in LCCC (00:20:00)

A copy of the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor D Bassett had been circulated to Members with the notice convening the meeting:

"that the Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council:

- Strongly condemns all forms of discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression, advocating for policies that safeguard LGBTQ+ rights in housing, education, employment, and healthcare.

12.1 Motion in Support of the LGBTQ+ Community in LCCC (Cont'd)

- Commits to enhancing awareness and understanding of LGBTQ+ issues among council members, staff, and the wider community through education and sensitivity training.
- Supports initiatives that provide safe spaces, counselling, and support services for LGBTQ+ youth to combat bullying, harassment, and mental health challenges.
- Actively participates in local Pride events to demonstrate the council's visible support for the LGBTQ+ community and identifies areas to display LGBTQ+ pride symbols in appropriate public spaces.
- Seeks collaboration with local LGBTQ+ organizations and community groups to better comprehend their needs and explore joint projects that celebrate diversity and inclusivity.

By adopting this motion, we reaffirm our Council's dedication to promoting equality and inclusivity, with the aim of nurturing a more cohesive community that values its diverse members.

The Notice of Motion as proposed by Councillor D Bassett, was seconded by Councillor K Dickson.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor advised that, in accordance with Standing Order 16.1 (6), as the above Notice of Motion fell within the remit of the Corporate Services Committee, it would be referred to that Committee for consideration.

13. Confidential Business (00:23:05)

There was no confidential business for consideration.

14. Any Other Business

14.1 PSNI Data Breach (00:23:54)
Councillor A Givan

Councillor Givan advised that, as Chairman of the Council's PCSP, he had put on record at a recent meeting of the PCSP's Policing Committee, on behalf of the Partnership, its deep regret and concern for the PSNI Officers and support workers in relation to the recent data breach concerning sensitive and personal information.

Councillor A Givan proposed that letters of concern and support from The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan, on behalf of the Council, be sent to:

- a) Superintendent Moore to assure her that the sympathy and thoughts of the Council are with her and her staff and support workers and their families throughout the District at this time, and

14.1 PSNI Data Breach (Cont'd)
Councillor A Givan

- b) the Chairman of the Police Federation for Northern Ireland, Mr Liam Kelly, to express to him our deep concern, regret and sympathy to all PSNI Officers , across the Province on the data breach.

Councillor S Lowry having thanked Councillor A Givan for his proposal seconded Councillor Givan's proposal.

Alderman J Baird having supported to the sentiments expressed by Councillor A Givan put forward an amendment that the Council's letter to Superintendent Moore state that the Council's sympathy was with not only those PSNI Officers and support workers employed across the Council's district but also with all other PSNI employees that reside in the Lisburn and Castlereagh Council area. Councillor A Givan indicated that he was content with Alderman J Baird's amendment.

Councillor A Givan's proposal, as amended, was put to the meeting and agreed.

14.2 Local World Record Drummer and Fundraiser – Allister Brown (00:28:10)
Councillor T Mitchell

Councillor T Mitchell highlighted the success and fundraising efforts of local drummer, Allister Brown, who had recently broken his own world record for non-stop drumming for over 150 hours in memory of his late partner who had died from pancreatic cancer and having raised a significant amount of money for a local Pancreatic Cancer charity, NIPANC.

It was proposed by Councillor T Mitchell seconded by Councillor R T Beckett, that a mayoral reception be held for Allister in recognition of his recent achievement and fundraising efforts.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan, advised that arrangements were in hand already for a reception for Allister along with two other local fundraisers, Cathy Booth and Alison Harrower, who also had raised funds recently in aid of pancreatic cancer via their 'Cycle the Periphery' fundraising campaign.

14.3 Flooding in Dromara - Storm Betty (00:32:20)
Councillor U Mackin

Councillor U Mackin, on behalf of all of the Members representing Downshire East, put on record his thanks to the efforts of the Chief Executive, the Acting Director of Environmental Services and the Council's Emergency Planning Officer on the morning of Saturday, 19th August when they had assisted a number of residents in Dromara whose homes had been flooded as a result of Storm Betty. Councillor Mackin also expressed appreciation for the efforts of Officers in helping residents with their claim forms to the Council's hardship fund which he stated was very much appreciated by those concerned.

14.3 Flooding in Dromara - Storm Betty (Cont'd)
Councillor U Mackin

Councillor Mackin also commended the representatives from NIHE and NIFRS who had assisted those residents on Saturday morning who had to leave their homes due to flooding.

Councillor Mackin emphasised that the problem of flooding was not new to this area and expressed disappointment that the statutory agencies such as Rivers Agency had not been forthcoming with plan for the necessary food defences. He also referred to NI Water having identified recently the cause of the sewage issue in this area being due to the root of a tree at the mouth of the pumping station. Again no plans had been put in place to address this issue.

It was proposed by Councillor U Mackin, seconded by Councillor A McIntyre, and agreed that the following measures be put in place as a matter of urgency:

- a) the former Dromara Community Resilience Group, which had been established a number of years ago, be refreshed as a new Weather Resilience group for the village of Dromara which would incorporate a wider group of organisations, and
- b) a working group be established comprising relevant Council Officers and the Members of Downshire East DEA with a view to working with the various departments to come up with a scheme to deal with the flooding and sewage issues in Dromara.

Councillor McIntyre having seconded Councillor Mackin's proposal spoke in support of the important issues raised and expressed thanks to Councillor Mackin for raising this important matter that evening, as did Alderman J Baird.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor also wished to be associated with the sentiments of thanks and appreciation in regard to the efforts of the Officers who had been working on the ground on Saturday morning, 19th August. He also expressed appreciation to those Members from Downshire East who had been present that morning.

14.4 Recent Mayoral Reception - Medal Winners at Special Olympics (00:40:40)
Councillor P Catney

Councillor P Catney put on record his thanks and appreciation to The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan, for having hosted a reception recently for a number of Special Olympic medal winners from the Council area, along with their families and coaches. Councillor R T Beckett, Chairman of the Communities and Wellbeing Committee, had also been in attendance along with other Members of that Committee. The reception had been very well received by all who had attended.

14.5 Moira Speciality Food Fair (00:41:56)
Councillor A P Ewing

Councillor A P Ewing put on record his thanks to the staff and officers involved in the organising of the Moira Speciality Food fair which had taken place in Moira Demesne the previous Saturday, 19th August 2023. Councillor Ewing commended this event which he stated had been very well attended.

14.6 Passing of Mr Jack Ballance (00:42:38)
Councillor R T Beckett

Councillor R T Beckett, informed the Council of the passing of Jack Ballance from Glenavy, Jack being a direct descendant of John Ballance, a former Prime Minister of New Zealand. Councillor Beckett referred to the Council's long-standing association with The Ballance House and the Ulster New Zealand Trust, and that he was saddened to hear of Jack's passing.

It was agreed at the request of Councillor Beckett that a letter from The Right Worshipful the Mayor, on behalf of the Council, be sent to the family of Jack Ballance, conveying the Council's condolences at this time.

14.7 Somme Pilgrimage 2023 (00:44:24)
Councillor S Lowry

Councillor S Lowry expressed thanks and appreciation to the team of Officers who had been involved in the organising of the Somme Pilgrimage trip this year. Councillor Lowry paid particular thanks to Dr Ciaran Toal, Keeper of Collections at Lisburn Irish Linen Centre and Museum who had been very helpful in sourcing information on her late uncle who unfortunately had been one of the missing during the First World War. Councillor Lowry was grateful to have been able to read the inscription on the memorial which recorded her late uncle as having been awarded the Military Medal for Bravery, which she stated had meant so much to her and her family.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan, stated too that the Somme Pilgrimage had been a memorable trip as he had the opportunity to visit the grave of his great grandfather who had served with the Canadian infantry during the war. He stated it had been a solemn privilege to pay his respects to a family member and to everyone who laid their lives down during the Great War.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor also expressed thanks and appreciation to Dr Toal for his assistance on this occasion.

15.0 Confidential Any Other Business (00:46:13)

"In Committee"

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Councillor J Lavery, and agreed that the following item be considered "in committee", in the absence of members of the press and public being present. The livestream was paused at 7.50 pm.

15.1 Planning Committee - Statutory Consultees

The Chief Executive and the Director of Regeneration and Growth responded to comments and concerns by Councillor D J Craig in relation to the performance and standard of expert advice provided by a statutory consultee on Planning matters.

The Director of Regeneration and Growth undertook to explore the issues raised with a view to having further discussions with Planning Committee Members.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor T Mitchell, seconded by Councillor C McCready, and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed. The live stream of the meeting was recommenced at this stage (7.55 pm).

Conclusion of Meeting

At the conclusion of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan, thanked those present for their attendance.

There being no further business for consideration, the meeting was terminated at 7.55 pm.

Mayor